



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

CONSULTANT TEAM

Summary of EERMC Public Education Efforts in 2019

Rachel Sholly, EERMC Consultant Team

December 12, 2019



2019 EERMC Public Education

- Education Needs Assessment
- EERMC Public Forum
- URI Lecture Series



EERMC Public Forum

October 29, 2019

Building Rhode Island's Workforce with Energy Efficiency Programs





EERMC Public Forum

Speakers & Topics

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Carolyn Sarno, NEEP

The modern-day Rosie the Riveter, growing the clean energy workforce for everyone

JOBS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY PANEL

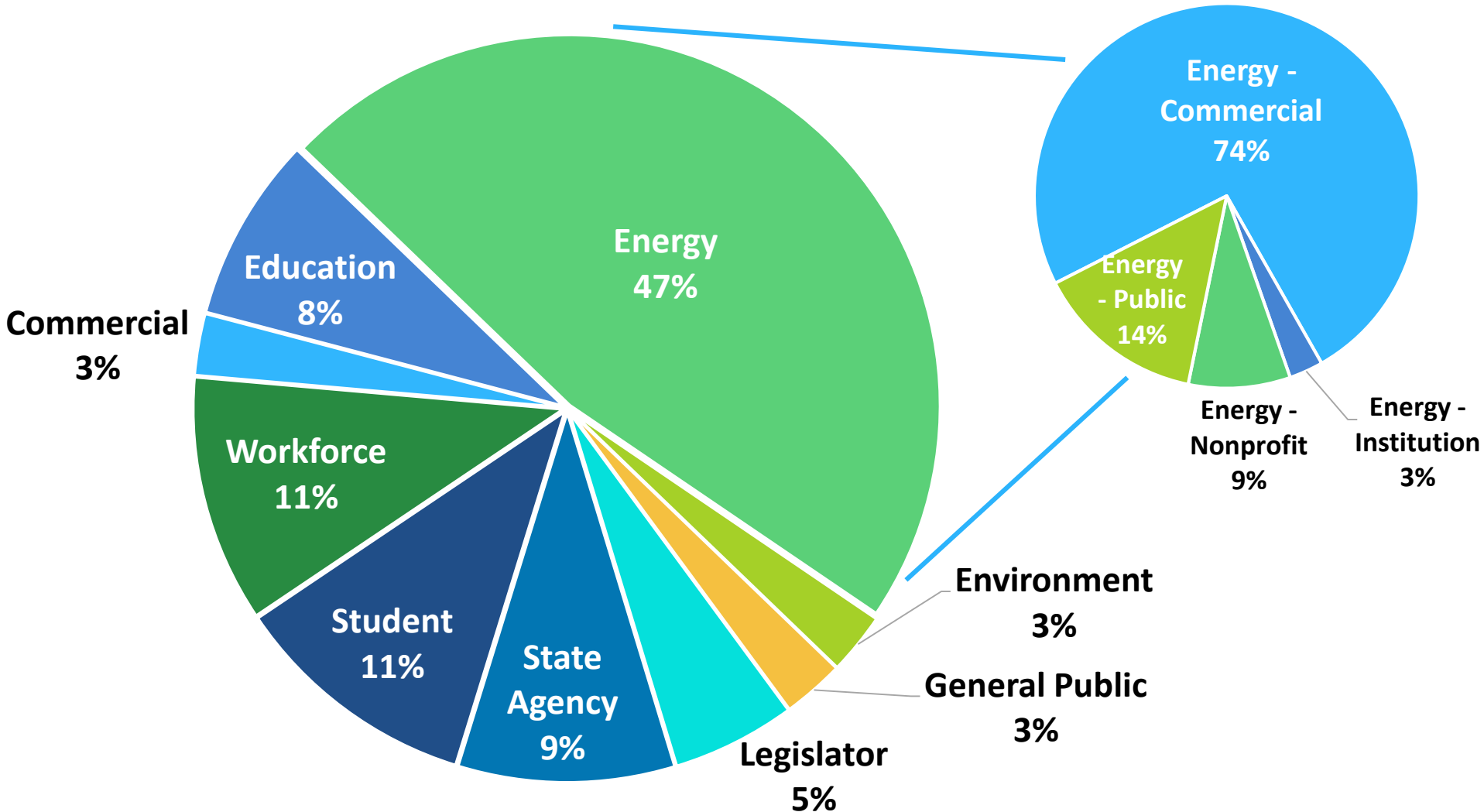
- Laura Hastings, RI Department of Labor and Training
- Andrew Cortes, Building Futures RI
- Phil Jordan, BW Research Partnership
- Vin Graziano (Moderator), RISE Engineering

INDUSTRY INNOVATION PANEL

- Stephen David, Viessmann
- Roberta Fagan, Oil Heat Institute
- Stephen Turner, Stephen Turner, Inc.
- Ezra McCarthy (Moderator), National Grid



EERMC Public Forum Attendance





EERMC Public Forum

Evaluation Survey Results (n = 21)

- 71% would recommend future EERMC events to a friend or colleague
- 81% rated the forum content “very good”
- Ranked attendee likes:
 - Variety of speakers
 - Networking opportunity
 - Panel discussions
 - Diversity of attendees
 - Learning about RI programs
- Constructive criticism:
 - More audience engagement



EERMC Public Forum

Future Topic Suggestions

- National Grid's Demand Response Program
- Nexus of Energy Efficiency and Climate Action
- Smart Buildings and Smart Cities
- What does the workplace of the future look like?
- New England Hydrogen Infrastructure
- Financing Energy Efficiency Projects
- High Speed Transportation from PVD > BOS/NYC
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Idling/Carbon Reduction Legislation in Transportation Sector
- How Renewables will be Implemented into the Grid
- Offshore Wind Development
- Tidal, geothermal and hydroelectric Energy Projects
- Air and Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Microgrids
- Data Analytics
- Grid Modernization



URI PIER Lecture Series

“Plugged Into Energy Research”





URI PIER Lecture Series

12/5 - Modernizing Energy Management: Solutions for Data-Driven Energy Efficiency

- Valerie Maier-Speredelozzi, URI Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Ron Gillooly, Leidos
- Jeff Broadhead, Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management

12/9 - Lower Bills for Everyone: The Role of Equity in Energy Efficiency

- Yasmin Yacoby, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
- Marty Davey, New Ecology
- Sam Ross, Optimal Energy



Education Needs Assessment

Objectives

- Assess **educational needs** of public officials and business stakeholders
- Provide **actionable recommendations** related to what types of energy education will be helpful for certain market actors

Methods

- Phone interviews, web survey, literature review



Education Needs Assessment

Business Survey Recommendations

- Create long-term relationships with businesses
- Present best practices and case studies to industry-specific organizations.
- Utilize recommended messaging and conduct case studies with sectors of interest to further identify what resonates with specific business types.



Education Needs Assessment

Public Official Recommendations

- Utilize story telling
- Frame messaging within the values of public policy objectives
- Utilize loss frame messaging

Next steps are being discussed within the education working group...



EERMC Education Working Group

- **Monthly Calls:** First Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm
- **Objective:** To recommend and oversee activities related to the EERMC's education budget allocations